

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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S E C R E T HELSINKI 2965

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, OVIP (KISSINGER, DR. HENRY A.)

SUBJ: EUROPEAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING: STATE OF
US-FINNISH RELATIONS

REF: STATE 231853, HELSINKI 2623, HELSINKI 2776

FOR STOESSEL FROM AMBASSADOR

1. US- FINNISH RELATIONS: SINCE OUR PREVIOUS SUBMISSION (HELSINKI 2623), US-FINNISH RELATIONS HAVE EVEN IMPROVED FURTHER. THESE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE WARM AND ANUSUALLY EXTENSIVE REFERENCES TO THE US BY PRESIDENT KEKKONEN, PRIME MINISTER SORSA AND FONMIN KARJALAINEN; A MOST SUCCESSFUL VISIT BY TWO US NAVAL VESSELS; THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF FINNISH-AMERICAN SOCIETIES (HELSINKI 2776).

2. MIDDLE EAST: THE FINNS HAVE RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO US EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY TO "KISSINGER PEACE PLAN," AND TO THE USAF AIRLIFT FOR FINNISH UNEF TROOPS -- THE PROVISION OF WHICH WAS THEIR IMMEDIATE AND TANGIBLE CONTRIBUTION. THEY ARE VERY HAPPY ABOUT GENERAL SIILASVOU'S DESIGNATION AND US SUPPORT ON IT.

3. ENERGY CRISIS: DUE TO MINIMAL DEPENDENCE ON ARAB OIL, THE FINNS HAVE SO FAR NOT BEEN HIT BY THE ENERGY CRISIS. THEY ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, FULL WELL REALIZING THAT SOME TIME SOON THEY TOO WILL FEEL THE WORLD-WIDE REPERCUSSIONS.

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4. EEC: MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IS FINNISH SIGNATURE
AND RATIFICATION OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH EEC,
A MAJOR STEP WHICH WAS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ONE TO
TAKE IN VIEW OF AMBIGUOUS SOVIET STAND ON MATTER.
HAVING DONE IT, THEY ARE SOMEWHAT MORE THAN NORMALLY
PUZZLED BY NYT ARTICLE HOLDING THIS UP AS
EXAMPLE OF "FINLANDIZATION". IF FINLAND HAD NOT SIGNED
THE AGREEMENT, THE TERM WOULD HAVE PERHAPS BEEN APPROPRIATE.
ALWAYS SENSITIVE ABOUT THE USE OF THE TERM, THEY FEEL
THAT IT WAS SINGULARLY INAPPROPRIATE IN THIS INSTANCE
AND WE TEND TO AGREE WITH THEM.

5. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MEETING AND SEEING YOU.
KREHBIEL

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NNN

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